

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner reservoir comprising:
a toner chamber that holds toner therein;
a shaft disposed within said toner chamber and having a groove formed in an outer circumferential surface of said shaft, the groove extending substantially in a first direction in which said shaft extends; and
a bearing member that engages said shaft so that said shaft and said bearing member can rotate relative to each other, said bearing member having a projection that projects from said bearing member in a second direction parallel to the first direction, the projection having a surface in contact with said shaft such that the projection rotatably holds said shaft.
2. The toner reservoir according to Claim 1, wherein said shaft is stationary and said bearing member rotatably rotates on said shaft.
3. The toner reservoir according to Claim 1, wherein said bearing member is stationary and said shaft rotatably rotates on said bearing member.
4. The toner reservoir according to Claim 1, wherein the projection includes a plurality of walls angularly spaced apart and in contact with said shaft such that said rotating body is rotatably supported on said shaft.
5. The toner reservoir according to Claim 1, wherein the projection is a hollow cylinder having a groove formed in the inner surface, the groove extending substantially in a third parallel to the first direction.
6. The toner reservoir according to Claim 4, wherein the walls

are present over a total angle in the range of 30 to 70% of 360° with respect to the shaft and absent over a total angle in the range of 70 to 30% of 360° with respect to the shaft.

7. The toner reservoir according to Claim 1, wherein the groove (D1-D3) having opposing walls that extend at an angle with the first direction, the opposing walls defining a tapered width of the groove such that the width becomes wider nearer an end of said shaft (85) .

8. The toner reservoir according to Claim 7, wherein the opposing walls make the angle not smaller than 11.3° with each other.

9. The toner reservoir according to Claim 1, wherein said shaft includes a small-diameter portion and a large-diameter portion, the small-diameter portion supporting said rotating body thereon.

10. A toner reservoir comprising:
a toner chamber that holds toner therein;
a shaft disposed within said toner chamber;
a rotating body rotatably supported on said shaft; and
a resilient sleeve that encloses said rotating body and said shaft in such a way that said rotating body is rotatable on said shaft.

11. The toner reservoir according to Claim 10, wherein said resilient sleeve is made of a foamed material.

12. The toner reservoir according to Claim 11, wherein the foamed material is a closed-cell material.

13. The toner reservoir according to Claim 10, wherein the foamed material has a hardness in the range of 20 to 90° ISO.

14. A process cartridge detachably mounted to an image forming

apparatus, the process cartridge including a developing unit that supplies toner to an electrostatic latent image formed on an image bearing body to form a toner image, the process cartridge comprising:

- a shaft disposed within said toner chamber and having a groove formed therein, the groove extending substantially in a first direction in which said shaft extends; and

- a rotating body having walls that project from said rotating body in a second direction parallel to the first direction, the walls being angularly spaced apart and in contact with said shaft such that said rotating body is rotatably supported on said shaft.

15. The process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein the walls are present over a total angle in the range of 30 to 70 % of 360° with respect to the shaft and absent over a total angle in the range of 70 to 30% of 360° .

16. The process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein the groove includes opposing walls that extend at an angle with the first direction, the opposing walls defining a tapered width of the groove such that the width becomes wider nearer an end of said shaft.

17. The process cartridge according to Claim 16, wherein the opposing walls make an angle not smaller than 11.3° with each other.

18. The process cartridge according to Claim 14, wherein said shaft includes a small-diameter portion and a large-diameter portion, the small-diameter portion supporting said rotating body thereon.

19. A process cartridge detachably mounted to an image forming apparatus, the process cartridge including a developing unit that supplies toner to an electrostatic latent image formed on an image bearing body to form a toner image, the process cartridge comprising:

- a toner chamber that holds toner therein;
- a shaft disposed within a toner chamber;

a rotating body rotatably supported on said shaft; and
a resilient sleeve that encloses said shaft and a part of said rotating body in such a way that said rotating body is rotatable on said shaft.

20. The process cartridge according to Claim 19, wherein said resilient sleeve is made of a foamed material.

21. The process cartridge according to Claim 20, wherein the foamed material is a closed-cell material.

22. The process cartridge according to Claim 19, wherein said resilient sleeve has a hardness in the range of 20 to 90° ISO.

23. An image-forming apparatus that forms an image through an image forming process, the image-forming apparatus having a process cartridge according to Claim 10.

24. An image-forming apparatus that forms an image through an image forming process, the image-forming apparatus having a process cartridge according to Claim 15.